

Word notes Sunday 15/5/2011 Michael Meeks
Daniel 2

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Daniel 2:29-49

Daniel correctly describes the king's bad dream and goes on to interpret it for him. What do we do with bad dreams of our own? Well it's not right to take every dream seriously – the workings of our minds while asleep are not under our control for the most part, yet we should be aware that sometimes God can use dreams to get through to us when our defences are down for whatever reason - BUT do test anything against the Word of God and the wisdom of Christian friends.

With the Lord's help Daniel was able to tell the king what his dream meant and it had to do with idolatry. The king was very proud of his kingdom and the city he had built – too proud as it took a place in his life rightfully reserved for the one true God. The statue in his dream is a reference to an idol, something man-made, the various parts speak to the coming and going of kingdoms and finally the rock is the eternal kingdom that the Lord would establish – not made of anything created by man.

In vv36 & 37 Daniel acknowledges the king's achievements but reminds him 3 times that these are a gift from God.

What is the lesson to Daniel and ourselves in this dream? - Daniel was able to see his enemy's nightmares. We too hear about the nightmares of those around us – for example the absolute bleakness of the atheist in contrast to our own eternal hope in Jesus.

Why did Daniel accept promotion in such a lost enterprise? - What he did he did "as unto the Lord", we are called to serve him where we are knowing our reward is not in earthly things but in heaven.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Michael summarised Daniel 2 saying: "There is a God who rules and even if we don't see it He's still ruling. No problem is too big for Him, all kingdoms are inferior to His so spend your time worshiping Him not a worldly substitute".

For king Nebuchadnezzar, his kingdom and achievements were at the centre of his life, not God – what kind of things try to take the place of God in the lives of people today? Isaiah 2:8, Colossians 3:1-5 and Philippians 3:19 may help you.

What about us, is anyone comfortable sharing things they have had to put to death or struggle with now? NB not all idols are harmful evil things; they may be good but given the wrong place in our lives.

How should we deal with idols in our own lives? Acts 19:19 tells of the determination some had (and at great expense) to rid themselves of such things. Take some of the idols you discussed in question 1 and talk about how to put them in their place. What about things that are good just given God's place – do we deal with them the same?

What is the answer to remaining in this world of sin and idols – how did Daniel remain true to God in a pagan king's court?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

If not discussed already (last week's "Witness") revisit the cell's outlook on witness, outreach and evangelism. Discuss what the cell has as a vision, how it is seeking to fulfil the vision and what are the next steps.

If you did this discuss who you will seek to reach with the love of God – and the Gospel when the time is right!